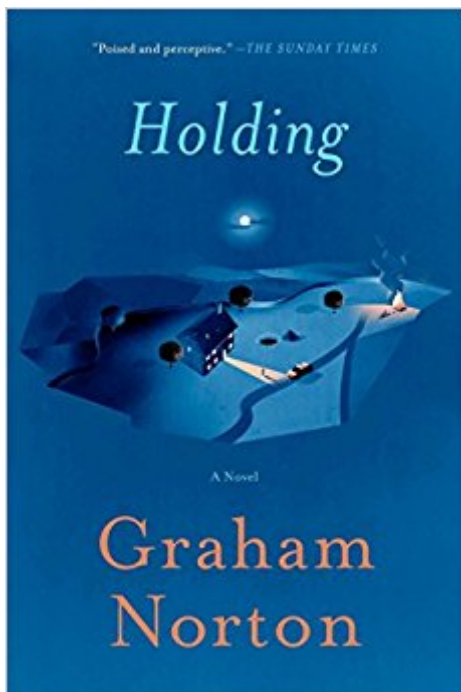


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# Holding: A Novel



## Synopsis

From Graham Norton, the BAFTA-award-winning Irish television host and author of the “sparkling and impish” (Daily Mail) memoirs *The Life and Loves of a He Devil and So Me*, comes a charming debut novel set in an idyllic Irish village where a bumbling investigator has to sort through decades of gossip and secrets to solve a mysterious crime. The remote Irish village of Duneen has known little drama but when human remains are discovered on an old farm, suspected to be that of Tommy Burke—a former lover of two different inhabitants—the village’s dark past begins to unravel. As the frustrated sergeant PJ Collins struggles to solve a genuine case for the first time in his life, he unearths a community’s worth of anger and resentments, secrets and regret. In this darkly comic, touching, and at times heartbreaking novel, perfect for fans of J.K. Rowling’s *The Casual Vacancy*, Graham Norton employs his acerbic wit to breathe life into a host of loveable characters, and explore—with searing honesty—the complexities and contradictions that make us human.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A wistful, atmospheric mystery . . . as this winning tale shows, sometimes things work themselves out in ways no one could have imagined." (Publishers Weekly)"A mystery laced with a sense of humor . . . yet the narrative also deepens into moments of unexpected sadness and insight . . . A bright, quick-paced novel, especially inviting because of its tongue-in-cheek wit." (Kirkus Reviews)"Thoroughly enjoyable . . . Fans of the cozy mysteries of Alan Bradley and Alexander McCall Smith will love this debut by THE GRAHAM NORTON SHOW star and clamor for more tales

of Duneen." (Library Journal (starred review))"The author uses his typically sharp and piercing sense of humor to breathe life into a multitude of delightful characters. . . . a charming debut novel." (New York Journal of Books)"Poised and perceptive." (Sunday Times)"It is beautiful and yet devastatingly sad." (Daily Express)"An undercurrent of black comedy accompanies the ripples that ensue - but with a pathos that makes this deftly plotted story as moving as it is compelling." (Sunday Mirror)

Graham Norton is a BAFTA award-winning comedian and the host of one of the United Kingdom's most popular talk shows, The Graham Norton Show. He is the author of Sunday Times bestsellers So Me and The Life and Loves of a He Devil. He also writes a weekly advice column for The Telegraph. He lives in London. Holding is his first novel.

Graham Norton is sharp, instantaneous, amusing and intelligent. As a broadcaster. As a writer, I am less convinced. The structure of this book is uneven, the time lines blurred and the action, such as it is, limited. Like another reader, I agree the ending is inadequate yet like another reader, there are elements of the story which I felt worthy of greater depth yet become hijacked by the writer. he tries to make it a story from too many perspectives, though by far the predominant is that of guard Sergeant PJ. It might have been wiser to have him as the narrator and develop his character more. There is a lack of discipline in the plot line and as for the title, I can't work it out at all. "Holding" ? Holding what, or who, or ???? "Duneen" would have made more sense. A brave first attempt at fiction but next time - and I hope there is - perhaps stay away from the "whodunnit" theme.

This is a gentle story written with care and grace. I like Graham Norton as a television host but he appears talented enough to have a future as a novelist if he chooses. The mystery here unfolds so nicely that you hardly notice but the characters you want to return.....

Wonderful read. It was like you were there. The way Graham draws the picture for you and gets you to really like the people in the story. Hoping he does another one with the same people.

A book that draws you in to the characters thoughts and feelings. This book describes perfectly people living in small towns in Ireland. Things are not what they seem and characters are very different in private than in public. Easy reading and very enjoyable

A surprise and delight to read, GN beautifully sets a scene with ease and delivers a collection of characters that have a solid yet uncomplicated background. It took me a few pages in until I stopped hearing it narrated in Norton's own charismatic voice, however his writing style really allows the reader to easily fall into the story.

A nice read. Characters a bit stereotypical. No great sense of tension or suspense but pleasant read.

I was pleasantly surprised. Graham Norton has a lovely touch with words. The images he creates makes one feel -- especially one who is familiar with small town Ireland -- as if one is part of the story. The plot has a couple of twists and one can't immediately see the end. The characters are people we could know and probably do know. I do hope he keeps writing. I genuinely enjoyed the story.

really enjoyed very funny in an Irish way but also very Sad really hope he writes another

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